

- c. Excavation for temporary holes or trenches for geological, geotechnical and archaeological exploration, (not to include construction or modification of required access roads) performed under the direction and supervision of a soil engineer, engineering geologist or (where applicable) an archaeologist. The work shall not affect or disturb areas greater than 3,000 square feet in size, shall not cumulatively involve more than 50 cubic yards of material associated with preparing the site for exploration, and shall be protected as required by occupational safety and health agency standards.
- d. Excavations for the installation, testing, maintenance, or replacement of distribution or service facilities for utilities regulated by the California Public Utilities Commission, including electrical, water, or natural gas lines (not to include construction or modification of required access roads).
- e. Excavation and fill of trenches for utility lines not exceeding 24 inches in width or an average of five feet in depth, or holes for utility poles or anchors and limited accessory grading.
- f. Initial excavation and fill necessary to effect such temporary repair or maintenance of oil, gas and utility lines as can be completed within seven days of commencement where such combined excavation and fill does not exceed a total of 100 cubic yards of material.

Coastal Zone Land Use Ordinance –

Replace Subsection B.10.a as follows:

- a. Excavation or fill shall not result in impacts to archaeological resources or the removal of trees or native riparian or wetland vegetation, or rare, threatened or endangered species. After consultation with the Environmental Coordinator, on-site monitoring may be required. This exemption shall not apply within an archaeologically sensitive area as shown in the Land Use Element.

Add Subsection B.10.g as follows:

- g. This exemption shall not apply to the extension of water or sewage service outside of an urban services line, as shown in the Land Use Element.

11. Ongoing crop production and grazing. Grading for the ongoing production of food and fiber, the growing of plants, and the management of rangeland shall be exempt when all of the following are true:

- a. For grading activities related to crop production, the proposed grading is limited to preparing a field for a crops on land that has been previously cultivated within the previous five years or covered under a conservation plan prepared as part of the Conservation Reserve Program. Cultivation shall include the following practices: disking, harrowing, raking or chiseling, planting, plowing, seeding, or other tilling.

- b. For grading activities related to range management for commercial livestock production, the grading is limited to the following activities: vegetation management, such as reseeding or vegetation modification; or livestock watering systems other than ponds or reservoirs. To qualify for this exemption, these activities shall take place only on land where grazing has occurred within the previous five years.
 - c. All site work shall be balanced. No importation or exportation of fill material from/to off-site parcels shall occur. These fill materials include topsoil, sand, and biosolids. The incorporation of soil fertility amendments to enhance crop production or rangeland fertility is permissible under this exemption. Soil fertility amendments include materials described in the California Food and Agricultural Code Sections 14511 et seq (excluding Sections 14552(e) and 14560).
 - d. All site work complies with the standards identified in Subsection C.1.
 - e. The site work does not involve the excavation, fill, or other movement of soil deeper than two feet on slopes identified by the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) as having a high or very high erosion hazard rating.
 - f. The grading does not involve construction of or modification to dams, ponds, reservoirs, or roads.
- 12. Routine maintenance.** Routine maintenance of legally established existing (exempt or previously permitted) roads; man-made, engineered flood control channels or levees; existing agricultural drainage channels; agricultural water lines; and public utility lines (as provided by Subsection B.10); where the width, length, or design capacity is not increased.
- 13. Water pipelines.** Installation of water pipelines to serve agricultural uses. Water pipelines shall be installed under proper practices recognized by the Natural Resources Conservation Service.
- C. Agricultural Grading.** This Subsection applies to all grading that does not satisfy the description for exempt grading in Subsection B. In order for agricultural grading to be exempt from a grading permit, as described in this Subsection, an Agriculture Grading Form shall be completed and submitted to the County prior to commencement of any grading activities, for verification that exemption criteria are met. An applicant's signature on the form indicates agreement, and acknowledgment of required compliance, with the standards in Subsections A and C.
- 1. Agricultural Grading Standards.**
- a. All excavated material shall be placed on the same or contiguous parcels.
 - b. Agricultural grading shall employ sound agricultural management measures and practices of the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and the UC Cooperative Extension. These practices shall not adversely affect slope stability, or groundwater recharge. Additionally these practices shall prevent off-site drainage and erosion and sedimentation impacts. All agricultural grading, whether requiring a permit or exempt, shall be consistent with the standards and practices contained in the NRCS Field Office Technical Guide (FOTG).

An **Alternative Review Form** shall be completed and submitted to the County to verify that the project qualifies for the Alternative Review Process prior to commencement of any grading activities.

Coastal Zone Land Use Ordinance – Add the following sentence:

Authorization of an Alternative Review Form shall occur only when the Director finds that the project is in compliance with all applicable sections of this Title, the Local Coastal Program and the California Coastal Act.

A. Alternative review program standards.

1. Grading activities allowed under this section must conform to the minimum requirements to determine exempt status identified in Section 22.52.070A¹⁹, agricultural exempt standards in Subsections C.1.b, C.1.c, and C.1.d of Section 22.52.070~~C.1~~²⁰, and the standards in Section 22.52.150²¹.
2. Within 60 days of county verification that the project qualifies for Alternative Review, the NRCS or RCD shall provide written verification that the project can meet Alternative Review requirements, including compliance with appropriate Field Office Technical Guide (FOTG) management practices. An extension of this period may be approved upon applicant request and agreement by the Director and the NRCS/RCD.
3. Upon final implementation/installation of appropriate FOTG practices and standard engineering practices, the NRCS/RCD shall submit a project finalization report to the County.
4. Projects which are not approved for Alternative Review, including projects which do not receive a project finalization report, shall be subject to Section 22.52.190 and Chapter 22.74²²
5. For projects involving roads or ponds, the Agricultural Commissioner's office shall make a written determination that the extent of the existing agricultural use or a proposed agricultural use of the property justifies the need for the road or pond. The Agricultural Commissioner may consider such features as length, width, capacity, and extent of the proposed road or pond in determining whether it is justified.

Coastal Zone Land Use Ordinance – Add Subsection A.6:

6. Where an application for Alternative Review proposes a project that is not otherwise subject to land use permit requirements of Chapters 23.03 or 23.08 or other applicable sections of this Title, approval of an Alternative Review Form by the Director certifies that the proposed project will satisfy applicable provisions of this Title. In these circumstances approval of an Alternative Review Form functions as a Plot Plan (pursuant to Section 23.02.030), and thereby constitutes approval of a Coastal Development Permit. Where an Alternative Review project is appealable to the Coastal Commission pursuant to Section 23.01.043, Minor Use Permit approval is also required as set forth in Section 23.02.033.

¹⁹ CZLUO reference: 23.05.048

²⁰ CZLUO reference: 23.05.048~~e.(1)~~

²¹ CZLUO reference: 23.05.048

²² CZLUO reference: 23.05.056; Chapter 23.10